

Traffic Commission Minutes  
June 13, 2019

The meeting was held at the TAB Building, 167 Holland St 2<sup>nd</sup> flr

Attendance: Thomas Graney, Lt. Polito, Mark Niedergang

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Anna Rebelo, Suzanne Rinfret, Dan Amelin, Nancy Salamoun

Other: Helen Loughman

Councilor Niedergang sat as Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

**Item #1** – Motion made to accept the Minutes from the May 9, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0

**Item #2** – Request for Handicapped Parking

21 Adrian St

- Nancy Salamoun stated she supports the request
- The applicant explained the reason for her request
- Lt. Polito asked if the residents would be impacted by the loss of a space and Ms. Salamoun answered parking is always an issue in the city but she supports the request due to the needs of this resident.

**Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 3-0**

**Item #3** – Request for Fire Lane

Windsor Place, Windsor St to Earle St, both sides, entire length

- Thomas Graney explained the Chief made this request because trucks cannot get down the street if cars are parked there
- Councilor Niedergang asked if currently there are a lot of cars parking here and Mr. Graney explained there will be as the area becomes more developed

**Motion to Approve made Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0**

**Item #4 was held until the end of the meeting**

**Item #5** – Request for Drop off Zone for YMCA busses at 101 Highland Ave. The restriction will be 8am-10am/3pm-5pm YMCA busses only then 2 hour parking except by permit 10am-3pm/5pm-2:30am and permit parking only 2:30am-8am. This is a result of the temporary removal of the drop off location at the High School (until completion of construction).

- Suzanne Rinfret explained the request came from the YMCA as they are losing their pick up/drop off space at the High School and they are concerned for the safety of the children.
- Lt. Polito asked if the bus could pull into their lot but Ms. Rinfret explained it is too narrow and would cause the bus to have to back out onto Highland Av creating public safety concerns.
- Councilor Niedergang asked how many spaces this would require and Ms. Rinfret stated 3 but also noted the spaces can revert back at the end of the summer and the request can be made again next summer if necessary.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

**Item #6** – Request for placement of (2) HP spots at 79 Highland Ave to replace spaces removed during construction of the High School (until completion of construction).

- At the request of Rich Raiche this item was withdrawn

**Item #7** – Request to increase the parking meter rates (citywide) from \$1.00/hour to \$1.25/hour.

- Suzanne Rinfret explained the meter rates haven't been raised in a decade and are the lowest in the area. The increase will help the city to better utilize its parking assets by maximizing turnover.
- Councilor Niedergang asked about the timing of the request and Ms. Rinfret explained the request is in conjunction with a study on parking spaces.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

**Item #8** – Request to increase the fee for a Rental Vehicle permit from \$20/month to \$35/month.

- Suzanne Rinfret explained this request was necessitated due to the number of Uber and Lyft vehicles in the city and the increase will bring the fee for a rental permit in line with the fee for all other permits.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

**Item #4** – Somerville Av Project

- a) Requesting to temporarily bag six meters on the south side of Somerville Ave, between Webster Ave. and Prospect Street, for a duration of approximately 4 months. The work zones encompass both westbound lanes; the existing two eastbound lanes are to be adjusted to allow for one lane of traffic in each direction, thus requiring temporary removal of the meters.
  - Dan Amelin explained the construction will begin on 6/24 and last for about 3 months, the work zone will then switch to the other side for another 3 months. His request is for one side for 4 months to ensure ample time to complete construction on the first side.
  - Thomas Graney asked what type of work was being done and Mr. Amelin explained it was a 20ft culvert for drainage improvements.
  - Dan Amelin explained the detour is over and the spaces no longer need to be restricted.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

- b) Per the February 14, 2019 TC Meeting, requesting to **reinstate** four residential permit parking spaces on the south side of Washington Street, opposite the southern end of Dane St. These residential spaces were temporarily removed to accommodate the detoured buses during the Union Square closure while under construction.
  - Dan Amelin explained the detour is over and the spaces no longer need to be restricted.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

- c) Per the February 14, 2019 TC Meeting, requesting to **reinstate** four residential permit parking spaces on Hawkins Street (two on each end of the street, opposite sides at the corners of both

Washington Street and Somerville Ave). These spaces were temporarily removed to accommodate emergency service vehicles during the Union Square closure and subsequent detour.

- Dan Amelin explained the detour is over and the spaces no longer need to be restricted.

**Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**

**Lt. Polito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.**